

Anthropology Colloquia

Spring 2014

Sergio Navarrete

Community and Citizenship: Windbands in Oaxaca, Mexico (19th to 21st Century)

The talk will address the power of sound as a protocol for political secularization and modern citizenship. I will address the role of the church in indigenous societies and the use of music in catholic ritual for evangelization during the colonial times. As we move forward to the 19th century after Independence from Spain, I explain how liberalism and an open market economy led to the introduction of wind bands in music chapels (the music institution of catholic church carrying the European music tradition for centuries) and soon later transformed these ensembles into philharmonic bands which continue playing masses, vespers, maitins and other religious repertoire but also the ball room dance repertoire (waltz, schotische, paso doble, polka and Italian overtures) to strengthen patriotism, citizenship, and a secular municipal power. In this process I will point at the important role of music merchants to enhance and facilitate this policies. I will wrap up with a reflection on the enduring ideology of community throughout this historical process.

Dr. Navarrete is currently a Professor of Social Anthropology and Ethnomusicology at Centro de Investigaciones y Estudios Superiores en Antropología Social, CIESAS at Pacifoc-sur-Oaxaca (<http://www.ciesas.edu.mx>) in Mexico. In his book, *Maya Achi Marimba Music in Guatemala*, Dr. Navarrete explores the marimba music of the Achi, one of several Mayan ethnic groups in Guatemala. He examines the marimba music as a confluence of African musical influences, Spanish colonial power, and Indian ethnic assimilation and sees the performance and consumption of marimba music as essential parts of a system of social interaction, religious practice, and ethnic identification.

Monday, May 19

3:30-5:00 pm

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